MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A.6709-B ROSENTHAL/S.5759-B BRISPORT - AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to exempting certain income and resources provided to persons enrolled in certain pilot programs with direct cash transfers in determining eligibility for public assistance benefits; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

May 23, 2022: The Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) supports A.6709-B /S.5759-B sponsored by Assemblywoman Rosenthal and Senator Brisport which would provide an income disregard for financial assistance received by individuals as part of their participation in a direct cash transfer pilot program for the purpose of eligibility determinations for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) Cash Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) for the length of time the individual participates in the program, but not longer than sixty months. The bill also requires the Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (“OTDA”) to seek a waiver for these benefits from the federal government.

Direct cash transfer pilot programs will help build research around these supportive policies which are intended to provide cash resources to youth living in extreme precarity, and both homeless youth and those aging out of foster care are disproportionately LGBTQIA+, Black and Latinx, experience significant physical and mental health risk, and disconnection from school and work. These two pilot projects are operating at the intersection of two overlapping systems – homeless services and child welfare – and both seek to address this precarity, providing flexible cash support that can help young adults to mitigate these challenges, and save money in the long-term by avoiding deeper-end crisis response like emergency room visits, mental health crisis, and criminal legal system involvement. This bill is necessary to protect young adults participating in these projects from potential disruptions in support they are entitled to under certain public benefits programs.

COFCCA supports A.6709-B /S.5759-B and encourages the Governor to sign this bill.

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